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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5700  
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RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
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RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY  
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 7790  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 1124  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3901  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1208  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0033  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1723  
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q IRAN - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Thursday morning's Sankei gave top play to a report that Chief Cabinet Secretary Abe is considering the establishment of a Japanese version of the CIA if and when he becomes prime minister.

¶1. "Iran's Answer: Halting Uranium Enrichment the First Step to Regaining Trust" The top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri editorialized (8/24): "Iran does not appear at all prepared to listen to the voices of those in the international community concerned about nuclear proliferation. It appears that Iran has effectively rejected the incentives package offered by the P-5 plus Germany. Although the contents of the reply have not been announced, Tehran has avoided mentioning the uranium enrichment program that the package calls for it to halt, instead proposing a new approach to negotiations.... We are forced to believe that Iran's proposal for new negotiations is nothing but an attempt to derail discussions about sanctions in the UNSC."

¶2. "Iranian Nuclear Issue: Buying Time Cannot Be Allowed" An editorial in the liberal Asahi commented (8/24): "Considering Iran's response, the international community cannot help but suspect Iran is simply buying time. In reply to a comprehensive incentives package offered by the P-5 plus Germany, Tehran rejected the idea of halting uranium enrichment and proposed continuing negotiations. In the end, this must be viewed as a strategy for keeping its uranium enrichment program.... Israel, which attacked Hezbollah in Lebanon, believes that Iran is supporting the Islamic militant organization. If Iran goes ahead with its uranium enrichment, the tension between Israel and Iran will rise further.... At present, the most important thing to do is to continue negotiating with Tehran until the end-of-August deadline set by the UNSC."

